Director General (All India Radio) are held by I.A.S. Officers. However, these appointments have been made in accordance with the Prasar Bharati Act/the Recruitment Rules for the posts.

(c) and (d) Recruitment Rules for the posts in Prasar Bharati have been framed, keeping in view the requirements of the organisation and the incumbents are recruited in accordance to the existing rules.

F.M. Radio Station in Kerala

1087. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) by when an FM Radio Station in Kerala would be installed;

(b) whether Government have identified the areas where F.M. Radio Stations would be set up in Kerala;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal for setting up an FM Radio Station at Manjerry, Malappuram and whether this project is under execution now; and

(d) by when it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Three FM transmitters of All India Radio are proposed to be set up during Tenth Five year Plan in Kerala at Konni (5 KW FM Tr.) Trivandrum (10 KW FM Tr.) and Cochin (10 KW FM Tr.) The implementation of above schemes is subject to, among other things, availability of funds and sanctioning of staff. A 3 KW FM transmitter at Manjerry has been commissioned *w.e.f.* 28.01.2006 (single shift). However there is no proposal to set up AIR FM Station at Malappuram as it is covered by Manjerry FM Station

On the private FM side, letters of intent haye been issued to private companies to set up 13 FM Radio channels in Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram, Kozikode, Cochin and Thrissur. No Private FM Radio channel is planned to be established at Manjerry and Malappuram.

New T.V. channels

1088 SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of television channels approved, so far, for telecasting;

(b) the names and details of the channels; and

(c) the number of new applications that are pending for clearance to start television channels?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Till 30.6.2006, the Ministry has permitted 185 private satellite TV channels to uplink form India as per uplinking guidelines. In addition to this, 65 TV channels have been provisionally permitted to downlink in India in accrodance with Gazette notification No. GSR 282(E) dated 11.5.2006. The names and details of such TV channels, the afore-mentioned Gazette Notification, uplinking and downlinking guidelines are available on the Ministry's website (www.mib.nic. in).

(c) As on 30.6.2006, the proposals of 30 private satellite TV channels for permission to uplink from India and 12 TV channels for downlinking permission are at various stages of scruiting in accordance with the extant guidelines.

Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill

1089. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to introduce a Broadcast Services Regulation Bill;

(b) if so, in what manner it would help to monitor the growing media industry; and

(c) by when this Bill would become functional?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is considering a proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill in consultation with Ministries concerned. A need has also been felt to consult the media in the matter.

It is, therefore, difficult to indicate final views or to give a time-frame on the proposal.

Popularisation of Indian Channels

1090. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study on the impact of DD-India Channel abroad